



Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater attempts a block in a match last season. Thater tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee in a workout Jan. 2.

DN file photo

# Thater's postseason injury puts career plans on hold

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

With her collegiate volleyball career over, Stephanie Thater wanted to continue playing volleyball competitively.

She will have to put these plans on hold for now.

Thater tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee Jan. 2 while practicing.

Thater, the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year for the past two seasons, was practicing for a tryout for the national B team, a step under the national team, on Jan. 21.

The B team will compete at the World University Games, Thater said.

"I came back after Christmas to practice. I made a really basic move, and (the knee) just gave out," she said.

"It just popped. I've never heard or felt anything like that before," Thater said. "I was in a lot of pain."

Right before Nebraska's first-round

“I've never heard or felt anything like that before. I was in a lot of pain.”

—Thater former NU middle blocker

Big Eight tournament match against Oklahoma, Thater sprained her ankle, which kept her out of the Cornhuskers' next three matches, including the loss to Colorado in the tournament's championship match.

Thater said that her knee was partially injured from when she sprained her ankle.

"The trainer said that I tore a capsule in my ankle, which is practically every ligament," she said. "There was some pain in my knee at first, but I

didn't feel too much pain after that.

"I had been working on my ankle and my knee, and then this happened," Thater said. "It just gave out on me."

Thater is hoping for a full recovery, and said that she would have to go through six months of rehabilitation or "however long it takes to heal."

She said that she is looking forward to trying out next year for the same team.

"I can't go this year," she said. "So I'll have to wait and go for it next year."

Thater left her mark in Husker volleyball history, setting records in both block assists and total blocks, for both season and career.

Thater was a two-time All-American with the Huskers and a second-team All-American as a sophomore.

This season Thater led the Huskers to the Midwest Regional semifinals and a 22-6 overall record. In Thater's four years as a Husker, Nebraska posted a 110-18 record.

# Oklahoma looking to work out KU frustrations against Cornhuskers

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said that his team is ready to take out its frustration on Nebraska after the Sooners' 96-85 loss at home against Kansas on Monday night.

Oklahoma will host the Huskers Thursday night in Nebraska's Big Eight conference opener.

"We're ready to play. We would like to play today," Tubbs said. "We want revenge."

Oklahoma led Kansas by nine points at the half but the Sooners could not stop the red-hot Jayhawks, who shot 66 percent from the floor for the game.

Tubbs said poor defense by the Sooners and aggressive play by the Jayhawks enabled Kansas to come back.

"I thought Kansas just outplayed us," Tubbs said. "Defensively, we were the worst we've been all year. We thought we were a better team than that, but they just flat-out beat us."

The Sooners are trying to forget about the loss and instead are turning their attention to preparations for the game against Nebraska.

Tubbs said that the two teams match up evenly on paper, but says the Huskers may have an advantage in the paint.

## Nebraska-Oklahoma Series

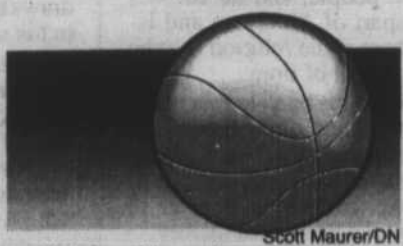
Nebraska is 3-6 against Oklahoma in the teams' last meetings. A look at the two teams' scores the last three years.

1992— OU 107, NU 85 \*  
OU 106, NU 97  
OU 79, NU 76

1991— NU 117, OU 113 \*  
NU 105, OU 93  
NU 111, OU 99

1990— OU 78, NU 65 \*  
OU 88, NU 66  
OU 105, NU 64

\* Big Eight Tournament



Scott Maurer/DN

"They will outsize us somewhat along the front line," Tubbs said. "Something that Nebraska does extremely well is rebound, and we will have to keep them off the boards."

Tubbs also said that the Huskers may be a more athletic team than Oklahoma, but he hopes that will lead

to the up-tempo game the Sooners like to play.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee disagreed with Tubbs about the Huskers' ability to match up with the Sooners.

"We have never matched up well with Oklahoma," Nee said. "We will have a tough time containing Bryan Sallier and Jeff Webster down low, and on the perimeter, it seems like Terry Evans has been around forever, so I think his experience could be an advantage."

Oklahoma brings a balanced offense into Thursday's game with the Huskers, as all five starters average double figures.

"We are pretty much a balanced scoring attack," Tubbs said. "There's nobody who has really stood out for us."

Tubbs also said that he is having difficulty preparing for Nebraska defensively because of all the new faces in the Huskers lineup.

"They're playing a lot of new people, and I'm having a hard time recognizing them," Tubbs said. "We will probably play everybody straight up defensively though, because they are going to have a good player at every position."

## TV

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peting team gets an additional share of the money," he said.

But more television appearances will bring more money into the Big Eight, Fouraker said.

Jeff Bollig, Big Eight service bureau director, said the conference is under a four-year contract with Raycom. Under the current contract, when a Big Eight team plays on television, the revenue is split among all

of the Big Eight teams, he said.

Nebraska will appear on Raycom five times this season, with its first appearance being Saturday on the road against Oklahoma State.

When the league's contract with Raycom expires in 1994, a new revenue agreement will go into effect, Bollig said.

"Under the new contract, if a team plays a non-conference game on television, it will get 80 percent of the revenue," he said. "With all other televised games, the money will go to the conference."

## Cooper

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thinks victories over Eastern Illinois, Southern Utah and the University of Missouri-Kansas City washed that disappointment away. When he compared the one-point win over the Kangaroos to a Big Eight-type road win, Nee really went down under.

The only similarity between that win and the Big Eight road was the cold, icy conditions that left the Huskers stranded Saturday night in Kansas City. The real cold, cruel Big Eight road may find Nebraska stranded in Kansas City again soon.

Only this time, unless Nebraska puts some defensive chains on opponents and some fluid in its offense, it will be stuck as a lower seed in the Big Eight tournament March 12-14.

That will leave the NCAA with the ultimate decision. Certainly, when compared with automatic entrants like the winners of the Big Sky, Sun Belt and Mid-American conferences, Nebraska belongs in the dance.

But after watching all but one of the Big Eight teams eliminated before the Sweet 16 last year, the tournament selection committee probably won't invite six again.

And after Nebraska's dismal performances in '91 and '92, the Huskers have no strong arguments for a berth. That's because Nebraska has never had a strong, consistent defense. Connecticut ripped it apart last year. And 13th-seed Xavier slashed through it in 1991.

Nebraska's only defense to any arguments for a berth to this year's tournament will come when — and if — its defense comes around.

Francis Allen will get few arguments when he says his 1993 Huskers will win the NCAA Gymnastics Championships.

No, Allen wasn't just gloating again when he referred to his gymnasts as the "1993 national champs" at half-time of Nebraska's matchup with Southern Utah.

The Husker gymnasts will provide the highlight of 1993 Husker athletics. As Allen has repeatedly said, they'll erase 1992's disappointment, when their school-best performance in the NCAAAs came up short against Stanford.

Or Francis isn't frank after all. And I'll go back to the cheap seats.

Cooper is a junior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan wire page editor and a sports columnist.

## Sanders

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contender for the Big Eight title," Sanders said.

Sanders' week could even get better if the votes go his way in the NCAA convention, which begins today in Dallas.

Among the issues Sanders will have a close eye on is a proposal to start the baseball season March 1 and move the College World Series back to either the end of June or the beginning of July.

Another proposal would extend the baseball season from 22 to 24 weeks.

There is no official starting date for baseball presently and Sanders

said that puts northern teams at a disadvantage. He said a common starting date would help teams like Nebraska compete with southern teams.

"It would bring about more favorable playing conditions and that would cause more of an equalization of recruitment," Sanders said. "Look who won the World Series — a team from far north."

"It also creates more fan interest because the fans want to watch games in favorable weather conditions."

The proposal to extend the season two more weeks is one Sanders said should pass without problem.

"After you have practiced that long, I don't see what two more weeks of games will hurt," he said.

## Late block lifts Hoosiers

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Indiana's Alan Henderson made what proved to be the winning basket and then blocked Michigan's final shot as the sixth-ranked Hoosiers snapped the second-ranked Wolverines' 11-game winning streak with a 76-75 victory Tuesday night.

Henderson, who made the game's

final basket on a jumper from the right side with 1:36 remaining, had 22 points for Indiana (14-2 overall, 3-0 Big Ten). Calbert Cheaney added 20 for the Hoosiers.

Jalen Rose, who had 19 points for Michigan (12-2, 2-1), put the Wolverines ahead 75-74 with 2:30 to play.

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